

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 7. (Cancelled)

8. The upper slot motor assembly of Claim ~~7~~25 wherein the first and second exterior walls have a first thickness; and wherein the first and second legs of said rigid magnetic member have a second thickness, which is greater than said first thickness.

9. The upper slot motor assembly of Claim 8 wherein the first and second interior walls have a third thickness, which is less than said first thickness.

10. – 15. (Cancelled)

16. The circuit breaker of Claim ~~15~~26 wherein the first and second exterior walls have a first thickness; and wherein the first and second legs of said rigid magnetic member have a second thickness, which is greater than said first thickness.

17. The circuit breaker of Claim ~~15~~26 wherein the first and second interior walls of said housing in combination with said first and second legs limit motion of the first and second exterior walls, respectively, of said housing during interruption of a power circuit when said separable contacts move from the closed position to the open position in response to said trip mechanism.

18. The circuit breaker of Claim 17 wherein the first and second interior walls of said housing in combination with said first and second legs enable the first and second exterior walls, respectively, of said housing to withstand pressure within said housing during interruption of said power circuit.

19. The circuit breaker of Claim 17 wherein said first and second legs provide a continuous bridge between the first and second interior walls of said housing and the first and second exterior walls, respectively, of said housing.

20. – 24 (Cancelled)

25. (New) An upper slot motor assembly for a circuit breaker slot motor assembly, said upper slot motor assembly comprising:

a circuit breaker housing including a circuit breaker base having a first opening and a second opening;

a rigid magnetic member having a bight portion, a first leg, and a second leg, the first leg of said rigid magnetic member engaging the circuit breaker base of

said circuit breaker housing at said first opening, the second leg of said rigid magnetic member engaging the circuit breaker base of said circuit breaker housing at said second opening; and

wherein the circuit breaker base of said circuit breaker housing includes a plurality of first interior walls and a first exterior wall, which define the first opening of said circuit breaker base, and a plurality of second interior walls and a second exterior wall, which define the second opening of said circuit breaker base; and wherein the first and second legs of said rigid magnetic member engage said first and second interior walls, in order to reinforce the first and second exterior walls, respectively, of said circuit breaker base.

26. (New) A circuit breaker comprising:

a housing including a first opening and a second opening;

at least one pair of separable contacts including a stationary contact and a movable contact disposed in said housing;

an operating mechanism disposed in said housing and coupled to said separable contacts, said operating mechanism being structured to move said separable contacts between an open position and a closed position;

a trip mechanism disposed in said housing and coupled to said operating mechanism, said trip mechanism being structured to actuate said operating mechanism to open said separable contacts;

a slot motor assembly disposed about said separable contacts, said slot motor assembly having an upper slot motor assembly and a lower slot motor assembly, said lower slot motor assembly being disposed below said stationary contact, said upper slot motor assembly being disposed above said movable contact, said upper slot motor assembly comprising a rigid magnetic member having a bight portion, a first leg, and a second leg, the first leg of said rigid magnetic member engaging said housing within said first opening, the second leg of said rigid magnetic member engaging said housing within said second opening; and

wherein said housing further includes a plurality of first interior walls and a first exterior wall, which define the first opening, and a plurality of second interior walls and a second exterior wall, which define the second opening; and wherein the first and

second legs of said rigid magnetic member engage said first and second interior walls, in order to reinforce the first and second exterior walls, respectively.